



CATAWBA COUNTY

P.O. Box 389 100-A South West Boulevard Newton, North Carolina 28658-0389
www.catawbacountync.gov

Telephone: 828-465-8201
Fax: 828-465-8392

March 20, 2008

CATAWBA COUNTY HONORS EMPLOYEES WITH 25 OR MORE YEARS OF SERVICE

Catawba County Government renewed an annual tradition on March 20, honoring employees with 25 or more years of service at the twenty-third annual Quarter Century Club luncheon, held at the Catawba Country Club. Many of the current members of the club celebrated with retired County employees who served with the County for 25 or more years, enjoying lunch and remarks by local journalist and historian Sylvia Kidd Ray. Kitty Barnes, Chair of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners, gave congratulatory remarks to the group.

Catawba County formed the Quarter Century Club in 1986. One of the club's charter members, Lucille Pitts, who has worked for the Register of Deeds Office for 64 years and 3 months, is still working for Catawba County.

A highlight of this year's program was the recognition of nine new Quarter Century Club members, including three who retired during the last few months after working with the County for over 25 years. They are, in alphabetical order:



Terry Bolick, Environmental Health Administrator, Public Health who retired on February 1, 2008, after reaching the 25-year mark. Terry was born in Alexander County and worked for the Alexander County Health Department for nine years before coming to Catawba County to work. He felt Catawba County was very progressive and offered advancement opportunities. During his career, Terry was named Environmental Health Specialist of the Year in the Western North Carolina Public Health Association. He has loved to travel since he was very young. Fortunately, Toni, his bride of 32 years, also enjoys traveling. Terry also greatly enjoys fishing. He says the most significant change he has seen in Catawba County Government, since he came to work 25 years ago, is growth in the number of employees. He recalls that when he started in 1982, Building Inspection had three fulltime employees and Environmental Health shared an administrative support person with Building Inspection and Zoning. Environmental Health now has fourteen employees while Building Inspection has twenty-four.

New members for 2008 in Catawba County's Quarter Century Club included (left to right) Carl Stump of Social Services, Pam Brooks of Social Services and Doris Kirby of the Sheriff's Office.

Pamela Wilson Brooks, Child Protective Services Social Work Supervisor, Social Services. Pam joins the club with 25 years, 10 months of service. A native of Mecklenburg County, she graduated from Lenoir-Rhyne College where she met her future husband, a Catawba County native. She worked for a year at the Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services then moved into a child welfare position when she married and moved to Catawba County. Pam was named Social Services Employee of the Month twice, in 1991 and 2003, and was a County Employee of the Year nominee in 2005. In 2006 and 2007, she was nominated for the Hancock-Settlemyre Award. She and her husband, Carl Brooks, III, have two children: Jeffrey, who lives in Raleigh, and Tracy, who lives in Charlotte. They have two grandchildren, Caroline Rose, 5 and Aaron Wilhelm, 2. Pam noted

"Keeping the Spirit Alive Since 1842!"

big change over the years including building improvements, technology (typewriters to computers), and more partnership with other agencies and citizens.

Karen Curtis-Gwynn, Mental Health Program Administrator, Mental Health comes to the Quarter Century Club with 25 years, 7 months of service. She is a native of Burke County. She accepted an internship in Catawba County while working on her Masters in Clinical Psychology. She was offered a job at the end of the internship and was very pleased with the salary and benefits versus that of other agencies. Karen is married to Raymond Gwynn and they have two children, Jordan, 18 and Zachery, 15, and six pets, one dog and five cats. Karen loves to hike, camp and travel. She is currently writing children's books. When she retires from Catawba County, she wants to work for Samaritan's Purse to fight world hunger. The most significant change Karen has seen is the divestiture of mental health services to Social Services/Family NET and Catawba Valley Behavioral Health, as well as all other mental health services being handled by private providers.

Doris L. Kirby, Investigator, Sheriff's Office joins the club with 25 years of service. She came to North Carolina from Kingsport, Tennessee. In 1983 she was working for the Newton Police Department when Sheriff David Huffman and Major "Moe" Cannon asked if she would be interested in coming to work for them. At first, she said no, but later changed her mind. Kirby is the recipient of several awards and certificates, including a Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) Instructor award, in appreciation from a BLET class; a Leadership Certificate from Leadership Catawba, and an appreciation certificate from the Rape Crisis Center. Doris has one daughter, Angelique Bost; a collie named Casey; and three cats. She says law enforcement is her life. Her hobby is always looking for ways to make law enforcement better, changing law, and protecting the rights of officers. She is active in an organization made up of law enforcement officers who strive to make improvements in law enforcement. She is the State Treasurer for the NC Fraternal Order of Police and proud to be the first female to hold that office. She is also an Ambassador for North Carolina to assist in raising money for the National Law Enforcement Museum in Washington, DC. Doris cites better equipment as the most significant change she has seen in Catawba County Government since 1983.

Judy Medlin, Administrative Assistant I, Adolescents and Children Together (ACT) Program who retired on January 1, 2008, with 25 years, 5 months of service. She was born and raised in Catawba County. She has been named Employee of the Month at Social Services and was nominated for County Employee of the Year. Judy and her husband, Fred Medlin have two children, Ward and Paige, both grown and living in Newton. Two dogs, Sparky and J.R., are also considered members of the family. The most significant change Judy has seen during her 25 years is growth in general.

David V. Sheets – Shift Supervisor, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Services joins the QCC with 25 years of service. Upon completion of an Emergency Medical Technician course he attended because his mother suffered a heart attack, David began working as a reserve with Catawba County EMS in October 1988. He completed his Paramedic Certificate course and was hired full time in November 1983. David is originally from Ashe County. In 1991, he was named EMS Employee of the Year. He has four children: Joshua, 15; Mary Grace, 14; Anna, 10; and Katie, 8. He is a carpenter and really enjoys working with wood and says he has a "gift" for repairing electronics, including computers. David acknowledges the professionalism of Catawba County Government and says he is proud to be part of it. He says he has noted respect for Catawba County at any place he has ever gone in his professional career.

Terry A. Shull – Deputy, Sheriff's Office has served Catawba County for 25 years and 6 months. A Catawba County native, Terry began his career with Catawba County Government working part time with EMS. Good friend Steve Lail was a road deputy at the time. On weekends when not working at EMS, Terry would ride with Lail on patrol. Lail suggested he work full time with the Sheriff's Office. On March 18, 2002, Terry received a

Meritorious Public Service Award for attempting to save the life of a man who was wheelchair bound and trapped inside his burning residence. Terry is married to Linda, who works for the Catawba County Library System, and has two daughters, Erika and Erin. Bailey, a chocolate lab, and Sadie the cat are also part of the family. Terry enjoys restoring old cars and collecting nostalgic memorabilia. A generational shift from service-driven attitude to consumer attitude is the most significant change Terry has seen since coming to work for the County.

Donna Stikeleather – Administrative Assistant I, Communications, Technology joins the Quarter Century Club with 25 years, 3 months of service. She came to work for Catawba County because of the good benefits and career opportunity. She is married to husband Bobby. Donna says technology is the most significant change she has seen in Catawba County Government since she began work in 1982.

E. Carl Stump – Child Protective Services Social Worker, Social Services had 25 years of service with the County when he retired in early 2008. He was born and reared in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, in the western part of the state near Pittsburgh. Carl has three grown, married children: Amy Phillips of Hixson, Tennessee, married with three children, Seth, Rebekah and Joel; Carol Hall of Catawba County, married with two children, Adam and Katie; and Pete Stump, also of Catawba County, married with one child, Ethan. Carl's wife, Jane, passed away in 1993. Carl says technology advances are the biggest change he has seen.

Current members of the Quarter Century Club include: (with service indicated through March 15, 2008).

Lucille Pitts, Register of Deeds	64 years, 3 months
Bill Little, Tax	37 years, 3 months
Lloyd Bost, Jr., Social Services,	36 years, 9 months
Lee Douglas Bumgarner, Technology	36 years, 4 months
Polly Pearson, Social Services	35 years, 9 months
Tom Lundy, County Manager	35 years, 8 months
Tommy London, Utilities/Engineering	35 years, 7 months
Jo Sloan, Social Services	35 years, 4 months
Joel Alexander, Tax	34 years, 9 months
Kathy Johnson, Tax	34 years, 7 months
Kay Bowman, Tax	33 years, 9 months
Randy Moose, Tax	33 years, 3 months
Dean Brooks, Buildings and Grounds	33 years
Rita Beaver, Register of Deeds	31 years, 9 months
Rodney Fulbright, Utilities and Engineering	30 years, 9 months
Jackie A. Spencer, Tax Department	30 years, 6 months
L. David Huffman, Sheriff's Office	29 years, 9 months
B. Lynn Baker, Sheriff's Office	29 years, 8 months
Bobby K. Boyd, Social Services	29 years, 8 months
Ray Lemmond, Jr., Information Technology	29 years, 8 months
Rhonda G. Ross, Social Services	29 years, 4 months
Glenda L. Frye, Finance	29 years, 4 months
Karen Kustesky, Finance	29 years
Eleanor Liles, Social Services	28 years, 11 months
Patricia Holloway, Personnel	28 years, 7 months
Judy Foster, Library	28 years, 8 months
Coy Reid, Sheriff's Office	28 years, 5 months
Judy Ikerd, Budget	28 years

David Pruitt, Fire Marshal's Office	28 years
Chris Patton, Social Services	28 years
Jenny Glass, Social Services	27 years, 10 months
Tanya Daye, Emergency Services	27 years, 7 months
Shirley Sipe, Library	27 years, 4 months
Freddy Smith, Emergency Services	27 years, 3 months
Mark Sigmon, Emergency Services	27 years, 2 months
Barbara Laney, Library	27 years
Kathy Lail, Tax Office	26 years, 10 months
John Hardy, Mental Health	26 years, 7 months
Connie Killian, Planning	26 years, 6 months
Phyllis Watson, Emergency Services	26 years, 2 months
Pamela Brooks, Social Services	25 years, 10 months
Karen Curtis-Gwynn, Mental Health	25 years, 7 months
Terry Shull, Sheriff's Office	25 years, 6 months
Donna Stikeleather, Technology	25 years, 3 months
Doris Kirby, Sheriff's Office	25 years
David Sheets, Emergency Services	25 years

The Quarter Century Club luncheon always includes a guest speaker or entertainment. The club was treated to combination of both this year through a program entitled "What Is A Southern Belle?", presented by Sylvia Kidd Ray.

Ms. Ray is a retired editor of The Observer-News-Enterprise, of Newton and columnist for The Hickory News. She had her first article, entitled "My Cats", published in the O-N-E at age 7. She is currently a public relations consultant and frequent speaker on local and regional history throughout North Carolina. She has authored several local history booklets and collaborated with Dr. Gary Freeze on his two volumes of Catawba County history and his Newton history volume; and has authored numerous magazine and newspaper special projects on local and regional history.

The Quarter Century Club also traditionally presents a gift to active members each year. This year's gift is a handcrafted glass icicle by Fireworx Glass Studio in Conover. Each icicle is unique, varying in color and decoration and ranging in length between 6 and 12 inches. Fireworx is owned by the husband and wife team of Shannon Norris and Erin Cartee.

CONTACT: DAVE HARDIN, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

828-465-8464